

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16, and 18-30 are pending before this amendment. Claims 2 and 17 were previously canceled. Claims 5 and 6 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 5 and 6. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-16 and 18-30 are rejected.

The present amendment is intended to place the application in condition for allowance by canceling the rejected claims or changing their dependency to depend from an allowed claim.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 15-17, and 19-29 are canceled with this amendment, without prejudice. Claims 3, 7, 8, 10-14, 18, and 30 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 5. Claims 31-40 have been added and are identical to claims 3, 7, 8, 10-14, 18, and 30, except they depend from allowed independent claim 6.

If the present amendment does not place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to immediately contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss the possibility of an Examiner's Amendment to immediately place the case in condition for allowance.

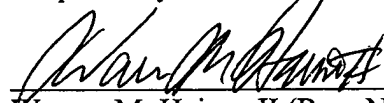
Conclusion:

Claims 3, 5-8, 10-14, 18, and 30-40 are currently pending in the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 5 and 6. In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is submitted that claims 3, 7, 8, 10-14, 18, and 30-40 now also are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance of all pending claims—3, 5-8, 10-14, 18, and 30-40—is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee in addition to that accompanying this Amendment is required relating to the filing of this Amendment. If this is not the case, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any related fee to Deposit Account No. 03-0172. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

10/13/05
Date

Respectfully submitted,


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